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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

CIA/OCI/WHIZWH

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DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

ENCE NUMBER

CIA/UHSS

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.

ITEM NO: (WH-3

DATE: 5 SEPTEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: IRANIAN INTEREST IN AIR SERVICE TO JAPAN

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SINCE IRAN SIGNED AN AIR AGREEMENT WITH CHINA NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO, IRANIAN AVIATION OFFICIALS HAVE SOUGHT TO SERVE JAPAN VIA CHINA BUT LACKED BEYOND RIGHTS--I.E., THE RIGHT TO FLY BEYOND CHINA TO JAPAN OR OTHER POINTS--FROM CHINA. TOKYO HAD CONSISTENTLY WITHHELD PERMISSION, WAITING UNTIL ITS OWN SERVICE TO CHINA WAS UNDER WAY.

JAPAN HAD PROBLEMS REACHING A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH CHINA, HOWEVER, AND THE GRANTING OF RIGHTS WAS HELD IN ABEYANCE. AFTER 4 YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE DIFFICULTIES WERE RESOLVED AND A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN APRIL. LAST WEEK THE FINAL HURDLE WAS CLEARED WHEN TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SERVICE WERE CONCLUDED. SERVICE BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA NOW IS EXPECTED TO

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ROUTING	1		4		7		10	
	2		5		8		11	
	3		6		9		12	

BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 29.

FOLLOWING THIS INAUGURAL SERVICE, OTHER COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN IRAN IN PRESSING AGAIN FOR BEYOND RIGHTS TO JAPAN. SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES NO DOUBT WILL RENEW EFFORTS TO SERVE CHINA AND JAPAN. FOR EACH OF THE AIRLINES INTERESTED IN SERVING CHINA, A STOPOVER IN JAPAN IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO GENERATE TRAFFIC. WITHOUT SUCH A STOP, SERVICE TO CHINA WOULD BE HIGHLY

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